

The Search for God's Will ~ July 2022 KB Teaching

Preparation

Before we seek to discern God's will, it is crucial that we are properly prepared.

(Sources: *'What Does God Want?'* By Fr. Michael Scanlan and *Discovering the Will of God: An Ignatian Guide to Christian Decision Making* by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMC)

Discernment Absolutes:

1. Good/Evil ~ If there is a choice between Good and Evil ~ we choose the good.
2. God Honors our Vocation ~ God never wills for us to make choices that hurt our first vocation.

Five Steps of Prep:

1. Love ~ We seek God's will out of love for Him.
2. KB Foundation ~ We keep our prayer and sacraments strong.
3. Disposition ~ We *will* God's will.
4. Write it Down ~ We record our preparation and discernment as we journey.
5. Journey with Another ~ We discern with another when possible.

Modes of Discernment of Saint Ignatius

God communicates with us in all three modes described by St. Ignatius. When God's will is made known to us, that is our *Holy Ground* ~ our place of comfort which we can return.

First Mode: The Lightning Bolt ~ We immediately know God's will with certainty.

Second Mode: The Slow Dance ~ God slowly unveils His will over time.

Third Mode: The Huddle Up ~ No lighting or dancing, just a rough and real plan of action.

If God's will is not revealed in a Lightning Bolt Moment, we move to Second Mode ~ Slow Dance . . .

Second Mode Steps:

1. Visualize the two options ~ Do you experience consolation or desolation when visualizing each one?
2. Take little steps ~ Do you experience consolation or desolation when you take little steps towards one of these options?
3. Discuss with trusted friend. Did you experience consolation or desolation during or after the conversation?

If God's will is not revealed in the Second Mode, we move to Third Mode ~ Huddle Up!

Points of Third Mode:

1. Sit, Detach, & Petition ~ Peacefully place before ourselves before God and the choice. Seek the Lord's Will without predetermined direction and ask God for a clear mind and a faithful will.
2. Pro/Cons ~ Write down the advantages and disadvantages the options.
3. Choice & Confirmation: Recognize which alternative brings greater glory to God and ask God to illuminate the choice He desires.

Rules for Third Mode:

1. View from Another Perspective: Which option would I suggest to a person who faces the same choice?
2. Deathbed Wisdom: When I am dying, which choice would I wished I would have made?
3. In the Light of Eternity: What choice would I wished I would have made to love God fully?

"In Your Will is our peace." St. Gregory Nazianzen